

Evansville “Kicks-Off” Smart Growth Planning Process

Thursday, August 21 30, 2003

–The City of Evansville officially started its Smart Growth Planning Effort this evening with a Kick-Off meeting held at the High School.



Over the next 18 months, the Smart Growth Planning Committee will be working with residents, business owners and its planning consultant (OMNNI Associates), to develop a plan that will guide the City over the next 20 years.

Ms. Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates facilitated the kick-off meeting. During the beginning portion of the evening, she gave a presentation to answer the following questions:

- [What is Smart Growth?](#)
- [Why is the City Developing a Plan?](#)
- [How can you get involved?](#)

The presentation also highlighted some of the key issues the Smart Growth Plan will need to address, including:

- [Population Growth](#)
- [Natural Resource Protection – Lake Leota](#)

At this point, OMNNI asked participants to answer the following questions:

- [What do you value about the City?](#)
- [What makes the City special?](#)
- [What would you tell someone about the City who is visiting for the first time?](#)

Everyone was provided a ½ sheet of paper to write down his or her answers. OMNNI asked for volunteers to share their answers. A list of common answers will be provided in the *Plan Introduction Chapter* of the City Smart Growth Plan.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to performing a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats (SWOT) exercise. Everyone in attendance was asked to describe what he or she felt were the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities to improve itself, and threats to its well being.

After everyone had recorded their own ideas, participants worked in groups to discuss their answers and decide (as a group) on the two most important

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing the City. Each group then shared their collective answers. The results of this exercise will be incorporated into the “Issues and Opportunities” Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The next meeting will be to discuss the vision for the future of the City. Representatives from neighboring communities, the school district, the DNR and DOT and county representatives will be invited to participate. An exact date has not been set. Please check this web site for more details in the future.